

# Bowling Mead Cottage Cottered Hertfordshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2012

**Client: David Perkins**

OA East Report No: 1383

OASIS No: oxfordar3-130454

NGR: TL 31805 29255

**Bowling Mead Cottage, Cottered, Hertfordshire**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: XHTCOT12*

*HER No: 54/12*

*Date of Works: 9 July 2012*

*Report No: 1383*

*Excavator: Chris Thatcher*

*Client: David Perkins*

*Report Date: July 2012*

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## **Summary**

*On the 9th July 2012, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bowling Mead Cottage, Cottered (TL 31805 29255). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for the construction of an extension to the extant property.*

*Modern made ground, that extended throughout the full depth of the excavation, was recorded adjacent the back wall of the extant property. In the remainder of the excavation a sequence of garden soil was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were observed.*



## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The development lies on an east facing slope and is situated on the Lowestoft formation, overlying Lewes nodular chalk bedrock.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A number of cropmarks in the fields to the north (HHER 16893 & HHER 16891) and west (HHER 16674) of the village attest to possible prehistoric and Roman occupation in the area. A findspot of Roman pottery and tile (HHER 11569) is also recorded less than 1km to the south of the village. Back Lane, which passes within 0.75km of the site to the south-west, follows the line of the Roman road that linked Baldock and Braughing (Herts County Council 2004).
- 2.1.2 The proposed development site lies within the Local Plan Area of Archaeological Significance no 35, centred on the medieval and later settlement of Cottered. The western property boundary adjoins the churchyard of the 14th century parish church of St John the Baptist, which may have once extended over the site (Drummond Murray 2012). Cottered is the largest village in the area and The Lordship, a property lying immediately to the south-east (HHER 2745 ) is reputed to be one of the oldest inhabited houses in Hertfordshire (Herts County Council 2004).
- 2.1.3 A number of medieval moated sites are recorded within the locality, these include the high status moated manorial sites of Moor Hall (HHER 1686) and Ardeley Bury (HHER 391), which lie approximately 2km to the south and south-west respectively. Approximately 1.5km to the east are the shrunken village earthworks near Middle Farm, Throcking (HHER 6556) (Herts County Council 2004).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The works were carried out in response to an archaeological condition placed on planning consent (planning application ref: 3/11/0134/FP). Subsequently, a Brief was issued by Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Unit that required the excavation of the footings for the extension to be monitored. The area of investigation was located within the back garden of Bowling Mead Cottage.
- 3.1.2 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales, digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.4 Site conditions were dry and overcast.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The entire footprint of the new extension was stripped to a depth of up to 1m at its deepest point. This comprised a total area of approximately 5m x 6m.
- 4.1.2 Modern made ground (102) was recorded extending westwards for 4m from the back wall of the extant property. This extended throughout the full depth of the excavation and comprised a mixed layer of soil derived material with brick, tile and ceramic inclusions, the remnant of a modern garden wall was also recorded in this layer.



4.1.3 The soil sequence recorded in the remainder of the investigation area comprised a dark brown grey silty clay topsoil layer (100) that was up to 0.20m thick. This overlay a 0.35m thick, dark grey brown subsoil (101) that was of silty clay composition. The excavation exposed silty clay natural with frequent chalk inclusions.

4.1.4 No archaeological features or deposits were observed. No finds were recovered during the excavation.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 No evidence for any activity pre-dating the modern period was observed by the investigation. It is suggested that modern disturbance observed adjacent to the current property was associated with the construction of a patio running along the west facing wall of the house.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1.1 The author would like to thank David Perkins who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray.

6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Alison Tinniswood.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond Murray, J 2012 Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and recording  
Hertfordshire County 2004 East Herts District Landscape Character Assessment  
Council

## WEBSITES

British Geological Survey. 2012. *Geology of Britain viewer*. [Online] Available at:  
<<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>>. date accessed: 11/7/12

Heritage Gateway 2012. *Heritage Gateway*. [Online] Available at:  
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> date accessed: 11/7/12

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-130454			
Project Name	Watching Brief at Bowling Mead Cottage, Cottered			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	09-07-2012	Finish	09-07-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No	

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTCOT12	Planning App. No.	No. 3/11/0134/FP
HER No.	45/12	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Hertfordshire	Bowling Mead Cottage Cottered BUNTINGFORD SG9 9QJ	
Parish	Cottered		
HER	Hertfordshire		
Study Area	30m2	National Grid Reference	TL 31805 29255

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Hertfordshire County Council, Historic Environment
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Hertford Museum	Hertford Museum	Hertford Museum
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

### Archive Contents/Media

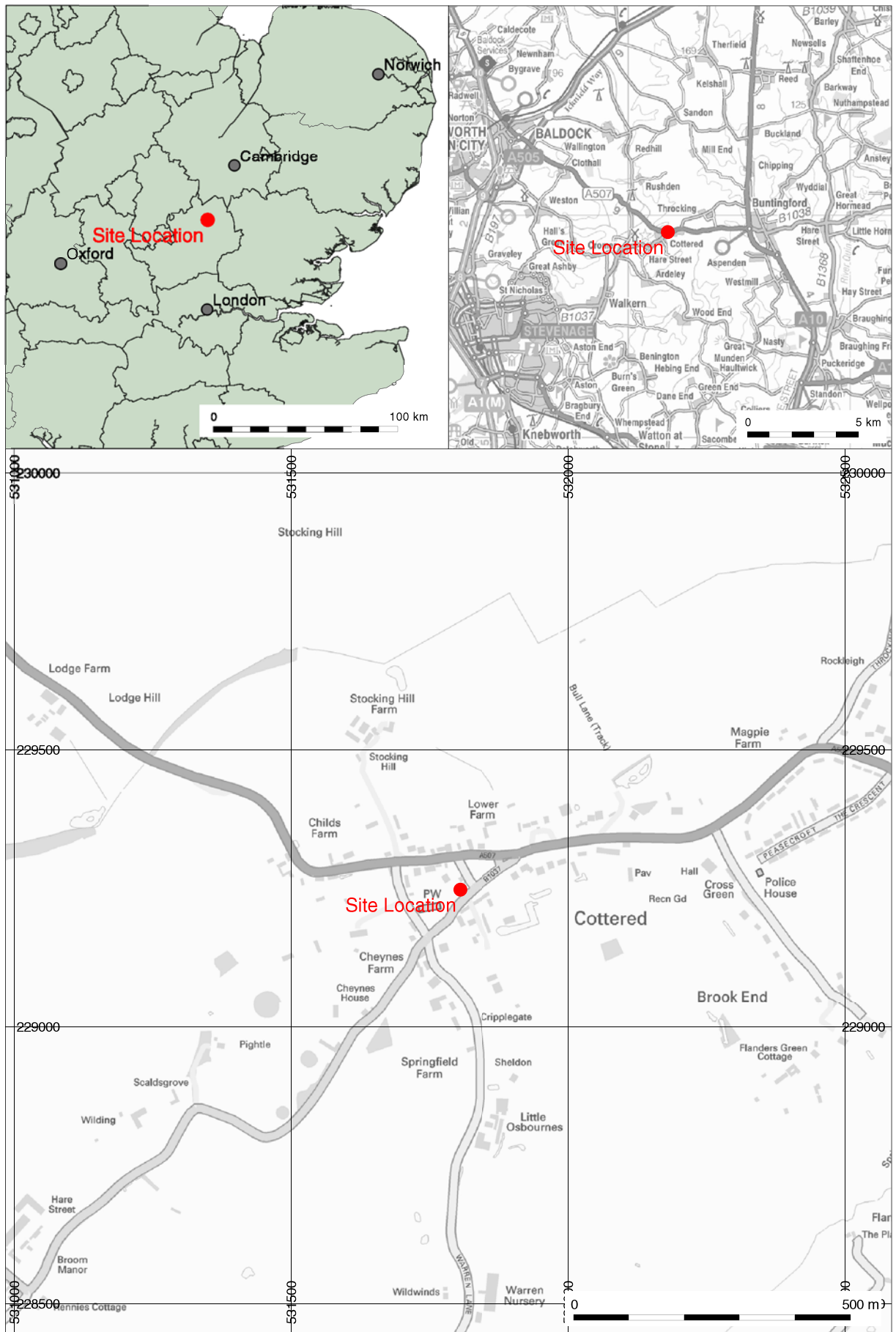
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**

## APPENDIX B. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b> Bowling Mead Cottage Cottered Buntingford SG9 9QJ		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire		<b>District:</b> East Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b> Cottered		<b>Parish:</b> Cottered
<b>Planning application reference:</b> 3/11/0134/FP		
<b>HER Enquiry reference:</b> Enq 54		
<b>Client name, address, and tel. no.:</b> David Perkins Bowling Mead Cottage Cottered Buntingford SG9 9QJ		
<b>Nature of application:</b> Residential Housing Development		
<b>Present land use:</b> Private residential		
<b>Size of application area:</b> 30m <sup>2</sup>		<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 30m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (to 8 figures):</b> TL 31805 29255		
<b>Site code (if applicable):</b> XHTCOT12		
<b>Site director/Organization:</b> Chris Thatcher / Oxford Archaeology East		
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching Brief		
<b>Date of work:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 9th July 2012	<b>Finish:</b> 9th July 2012
<b>Location of finds &amp; site archive/Curating museum:</b> Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)		
<b>Related HER Nos:</b> N/A		<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports</b> none		
<p>On the 9th July 2012, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bowling Mead Cottage, Cottered (TL 31805 29255). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for the construction of an extension to the extant property.</p> <p>Modern made ground, that extended throughout the full depth of the excavation, was recorded adjacent the back wall of the extant property. In the remainder of the excavation a sequence of garden soil was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were observed.</p>		
<b>Author of summary:</b> Chris Thatcher		<b>Date of summary:</b> 24th July 2012



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Plan of the sondage (black) with the development area outlined (red)



Plate 1: General shot of excavation



Plate 2: South-east facing soil profile





Plate 3: North-east facing soil profile



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